



**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A locking cover is provided for a manhole or other access opening formed in a soffit or the like, such as an access manhole formed in an otherwise enclosed overhead cell or chamber within a concrete overpass or bridge structure of a light rail or highway transportation system. The locking cover includes an upper section defined by multiple segments sized to fit upwardly through the manhole and then assemble to define a peripheral rim for seating upon an upper soffit surface generally circumscribing the manhole. A lower section includes a peripheral rim for substantially seated engagement with a manhole-circumscribing lower soffit surface, and carries a lock unit for releasible connection with a lock bolt depending from the assembled upper section. The lock unit is positioned within an access-restricting containment sleeve to resist and/or discourage tampering.